Bird-hit cases at Goa airport

1347. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bird-hit cases reported at the Dabolim airport in Goa in the year 2006;

(b) the damage done or the possible damage it would have caused to the life and safety of the passengers; and

(c) the details of measures, if any, taken by the Airports Authority of India to avert such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the current year and upto the month of October, 2006, 09 bird hit incidents at Goa airport were reported to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(b) There was no major damage to the aircraft, that would have endangered the safety of passengers. No injuries or casualties were caused because of these incidents.

(c) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airport where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. To reduce bird hits inside and outside the airports, Airports Authority of India, with the help of local authorities have taken steps for proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage dalaos, establishment of modern abattoirs and scaring/shooting of birds etc.

Criteria for business class ticket

1348. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that a foreign airline during first week of August did not allow a common man holding valid business class ticket to board the airline on the ground that he was not a businessman;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether our airlines also follow the criteria for travel in business class;

(d) if not, whether the matter was taken up with foreign airlines/ Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of foreign airlines/ Government; and

(f) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This incident occured due to lack of communication between the passenger and the Traffic Officer at the Alitalia check in counter at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. One Shri Santraj Maurya waw denied boarding by Alitalia on their flight from Delhi to Milan. As per the airline report the denial to board was due to Passenger's ignorance about immigration process.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) The matter was taken up with the Alitalia Airline and they have clarified the incident and apologized to the passenger. Alitalia has also offered one business class round trip ticket to him to travel to any destination on their network and the same has been accepted by the passenger and the case is resolved amicably.

Expansion of Rajkot airport

1349. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has indicated the urgent need for upgradation of Rajkot airport, runway needs to be expanded and terminal building should be improved with the increased floor area and also capacity of vehicle parking facility be enhanced by the Airports Authority of India;

(b) whether Central Government has initiated the upgradation work;

(c) if so, by when the upgradation work at Rajkot Airport will be completed by the AAI; and